

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as Senator Vickers has indicated, the proper route for the Legislature to go, if it wishes to assure continued full funding for the Curtis facility, to do exactly what he is suggesting to you, which is to add the additional funds over and above what is currently in the institutes budget. I did want to talk a little bit about generally on higher education. One of the problems that you have in higher education, we went through it during the special session a couple of times, is that if you are going to maintain quality something has to be eliminated if you are going to cut budgets. And we all know that where cuts were proposed in the past, whatever was chosen somebody...some of us objected to it in the case of higher education if we meant the cut to be somewhere else. It most assuredly, if we do not add the money that you would like to have in Curtis, most assuredly something else will go. All the campuses are looking at ways to absorb the permanent cuts that we imposed last year. And you've read a variety of alternatives that are looked at on all campuses. Some programs, again, are going to go. If you do not want a program to go you better add money, it's the only way that you can be assured that it will not happen. But when you are dealing with higher education it is inevitable to have to look at self-standing programs for elimination. They do not have the choice. It's a practical matter to go in and eliminate some programs if they are an integral part of an overall degree. This is as a result the kind of thing that brings Curtis up, as well as a number of other programs up, pharmacy, nursing for example, are the simple fact that those are programs if you want to reduce the scope of higher education you have to either eliminate them or put in the funds in order to maintain them, or else you suffer a standard of quality that is even worse than eliminating them, in the long run at least. So I would urge the body if you want to maintain Curtis you vote yes as it currently is. I think the Regents and the administration of the University has proposed...is attempting to work out ways of cooperation with the community colleges. It won't be as convenient for students I'm sure. But they are attempting to work out ways that some of those programs will be maintained, will have access, that is the students will have access to the kind of training that they are seeking. I guess the issues you need to decide, and I commend Senator Vickers for the approach he is now using, the issue you need to decide is whether or not